

## THE PLAYOFFS

As Carl ran down the court, sweat dripped off of his face. He swung left, turned right, dribbled [door/ and/ said] shot the ball into the hoop. [Was/ Get/ The] ball flew, thump! The crowd roared, [its/ say/ but] Carl didn't notice. All of his thoughts [and/ tend/ left] feelings were on the basketball and on [down/ every/ said] move of his fellow players.

At half-time, Carl [for/ sat/ eat] on the bench drinking a long, [cold/ side/ its] glass of water. "We have finally [sort/ open/ made] it to the playoffs," he thought. "[Its/ So/ A] year of really hard work has finally [date/ paid/ were] off." As Carl drank his water, [he/ do/ in] thought back over the past year. [This/ Form/ Were] was the first year for a basketball [said/ down/ team] at Westview School. The boys who [have/ dog/ had] been picked for this team were excited because [they/ gone/ weird] knew they were the new [the/ dip/ team] for Westview School. At each game [care/ also/ they] played during the year, Westview School [was/ bet/ the] not the favored team. The other schools thought [that/ down/ lint] since Westview had a new team, [from/ they/ vault] would be an easy team to [fish/ beat/ one]. However, the boys from Westview surprised [were/ fast/ the] whole town and now were [in/ or/ as] the final games of the playoffs against Eastland School.

[Ease/ The/ Wasp] buzzer rang and Carl ran out [me/ it/ on] the court, ready to play. The [boys/ drive/ were] from each team ran, sweated, jumped,

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[was/ for/ and] scored points for their teams. They [pushed/ bought/ orange] and shoved as they ran across [the/ kit/ fat] court, shoes squeaking at every turn. [See/ The/ Was] score inched up, 92-90 Westview, 94-92, Eastland. [In/ As/ By] the boys played, the colors [sit/ dig/ and] sounds from the crowd became a [side/ date/ blur]. Suddenly, the buzzer sounded. The playoff [have/ game/ send] was over, and Eastland had won - 118- 116.

Carl slumped [share/ down/ clean] on the bench with the rest [of/ dot/ for] the boys. They were all upset [vast/ that/ more] they had lost the playoff game. [Dope/ The/ Say] coach came over and said, "Great [dip/ from/ game] boys!" "What do you mean, coach?" [sick/ asked/ lemon] Carl. "We lost the game." "We [lot/ may/ get] have lost the game," said the [coach/ drag/ event], "but we are not a bunch [is/ or/ of] losers. To make it to the playoffs [or/ in/ at] only one year is very good [did/ and/ not] something to be proud of." The [wait/ dog/ boys] looked at each other and grinned. [Had/ The/ Was] coach was right. Westview School may [get/ joy/ not] have won the game, but the [race/ boys/ war] did have plenty to be proud of!